

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 L-03 SAM-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W
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O R 250914Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1438

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

CNO WASHINGTON DC

USCINCPAC LONDON UK

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0645

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE HUDDLED AS PRIORITY UPON RECEIPT IN DEPT.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA, US

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATIONING AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 185446

1. I CALLED ON FOMIN AUG. 24 TO MAKE POINTS IN INSTRUCTIONS
REFTEL AND TO DELIVER REFTEL'S TWO DRAFT NOTES TO GOB FOR
STUDY AND COMMENT. STRESSED TO FONMIN THESE DRAFTS REPRESENT
INTENSIVE AND SINCERE U.S. EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GOB
NEEDS RE JURISDICTION AND TERMINATION CLAUSE EFD THAT IT
WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GO BEYOND THE SUBSTANCE OF
THESE DRAFT PROPOSALS WITHOUT INVITING PUBLIC DEBATE ON
STATIONING AGREEMENT IN U.S. CONGRESS AND PRESUMABLY BAHRAIN'S
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. FONMIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S.
EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE GOB NEEDS, AGREED THAT GOB ALSO MOST
ANXIOUS TO AVOID LEGAL DEBATE ON AGREEMENT AND NOTED
APPRECIATION FOR USG CONCERN FOR MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY
PRESENT DISCUSSIONS. HE UNDERTOOK TO TURN DRAFT NOTES
IMMEDIATELY OVER TO MIN OF STATE FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS FOR STUDY
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AND TO BE BACK IN TOUCH ON THIS QUESTION SOONEST.

2. IN RESPECT TO TIMING OF DISCUSSIONS FONMIN INDICATED
GOB FEELS GROWING SENSE OF URGENCY TO WRAP UP MIDEASTFOR
QUESTION IF POSSIBLE BY MID-SEPT SINCE PUBLIC QUESTIONS
IN BAHRAIN AND IN AREA WILL CERTAINLY ARISE BY EARLY
OCTOBER. HE SAID APPROPRIATE GOB MINISTERS WOULD BE
AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO LEASE ARRANGE-
MENTS WITH CMEF AND ME BY SEPT 1. I EXPLAINED PROCEDURE
WE FORESEE FOR BRIEFING CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES PRIOR
TO ANY FORMAL EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND EXPLAINED NECESSITY
THEREOF. FONMIN STRESSED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THERE BE
NO PUBLIC DISCUSSION OR REPORTS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS OR
ELEMENTS OF ARRANGEMENTS IN U.S. CONGRESS OR PRESS UNTIL
GOB HAS OPPORTUNITY DISCLOSE TO ITS OWN PUBLIC THAT
MIDEASTFOR WILL REMAIN UNDER ARRANGEMENTS ACCEPTABLE
TO GOB. HE AGREED THAT BEST PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO SAFE-
GUARD CONFIDENTIALITY WOULD BE TO AVOID ANY FORMAL
EXCHANGE OF NOTES OR LEASE DOCUMENTS UNTIL ALL PARTS
OF PACKAGE ARE INFORMALLY AGREED; THEN TO PROCEED
QUICKLY WITH BRIEFING OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
AND EXCHANGE OF NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, GIVING GOB MAXIMUM
LEAD TIME TO PRESENT ITS CASE HERE PRIOR TO ANY POSSIBLE
LEAKAGE IN U.S.
TWINAM

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